(b) whether ONGC approved aggregate investment proposal worth Rs. 28,207 crore during the fiscal year;

(c) whether ONGC in its MoU with the Centre has estimated crude production of 29.4 million metric tonne, 25.05 billion cubic metres of gas and value added products of 3.320 million tonne of oil equivalent in 2008-09; and

(d) if so, what are the concrete steps proposed to be taken to achieve this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) Plan outlay of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) during 11th Plan (2007—2012) for domestic Exploration and Production (E&P) operations is Rs. 71794.66 crore. ONGC has reported 28 hydrocarbon discoveries in its onland and offshore areas of operation. Out of the above, eleven are oil/oil & gas discoveries and seventeen are gas discoveries.

(b) Plan outlay of ONGC during 2008-09 for domestic operations is Rs. 19,337.53 crore.

(c) MoU targets of ONGC for the year 2008-09 are given below:

Crude Oil Production	29.04 Million Metric Tonne (MMT)
Gas Production	25.05 Billion Cubic Metres
Value Added Products	3.32 MMT

(d) ONGC has taken various steps for augmenting/maintaining the crude oil production. In addition to focus on repair of existing wells, various efforts have been made/planned for enhancing oil production from the fields in Offshore and Onshore areas including Improved Oil Recovery (IOR), Enhance Oil Recovery (EOR) techniques development of marginal fields, aplication of state of the art technologies etc.

Sale of LPG cylinders through petrol pumps

3822. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that LPG dealers in the Northern part of the country have created an artificial shortage of LPG cylinders;

(b) if so, the steps Government has taken against the erring dealers;

(c) whether Government is considering any proposal to start the sale of LPG cylinders through petrol pumps in a convenient packing; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companeis (OMCs) have reported that at present, there is no overall shortage of LPG in the country and LPG supplies to distributors are being made by the OMCs through indigenous production and imports in accordance with the genuine demand of customers registered with the LPG distributors.

However, OMCs had reported backlog in LPG supplies in certain States in the country due to a combination of factors *viz.*, reduction in supply of bulk LPG compared to the

target by Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) & Essar Oil Limited in January-February, 2008, delay in movement of bulk LPG by rail from Jamnagar to the Northern Region, increased demand in the States due to severe cold which resulted in panic booking by the customers, strikes by contract labour, agitational activities, delays in berthing of vessels at Haldia Port due to reduced draft bandhs etc.

Government had advised OMCs to liquidate the backlog in the country by operating the bottling plants on holidays and during extended hours. Increased bottling was also done during the working days for early clearance of backlog.

At present, OMCs have not reported any backlog in supply of LPG in the country. OMCs are monitoring the situation on a day-to-day basis and corrective action is being taken wherever required.

(b) The possibility of blackmarketing/diversion of subsidized domestic LPG cylinders by some unscrupulous elements cannot be ruled out due to the wide gap between the retail price of LPG for domestic use and the market price for commercial LPG.

In order to stop blackmarketing/diversion of domestic LPG cylinders, the Government has enacted "Liquefied Petroleum Gas (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Order, 2000" and formulated "Marketing Discipline Guidelines, 2001" whcih provides for penal action against LPG distributors indulging in diversion/blackmarketing of LPG.

Whenever OMCs receive complaints, these are investigated and if the complaint is established, suitable action is taken against the LPG distributor(s) in accordance with the provisions of the Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG). MDG provides for following action against the distributor:—

— Fine of Rs. 20,000 plus the price of LPG diverted at commercial rates for 1st offence.

— Fine of Rs. 50,000 plus the price of LPG diverted at commercial rates for 2nd offence.

— Termination of the distributorship for 3rd offence.

In addition to the action taken by the OMCs, State Governments are empowered under the LPG (Regulation of Supply & Distribution) Order, 2000 promulgated under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 to take action against blackmarketing/diversion of domestic LPG. Similarly, the weights and Measures Departments of the States/UTs initiate legal action against those LPG distributors found blackmarketing/diversion of LPG cylinders. The State Governments have been alerted from time to time to take steps against the blackmarketing/ diversion of domestic cylinders for unauthorized usage.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Government is not considering any proposal for selling LPG cylinders through petrol pumps, as the present regulations do not permit sale of LPG cylinders at petrol pumps.

Reduction in domestic quota for cooking gas

3823. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cooking gas petroleum companies have reduced the domestic quota of cooking gas per family from 8 Kg to 5 Kg;